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Borough of South Molton

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
and Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1959.



Borough of South Molton

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Year ended 31st December, 1959.



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The Castle,  
Barnstaple,  
November, 1960.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Councillors of the Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present the Annual Report  
on the Health and Sanitation Administration of the Borough  
for the year 1959.

Your obedient Servants,

F. J. H. MARTIN and E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officers of Health.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the  
**Borough of South Molton**  
for the year ending December 31st, 1959.

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**LIST OF STAFF**

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The Staff of the Public Health Department  
consists of:

Part-time Officers:—

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),  
D.P.H. (Oxon)

Succeeded by

Dr. E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),  
D.P.H. (Oxon)

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

G. T. HILL, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	5,910
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate) ...	3,110
Inhabited Houses ... ..	1,027
Rateable Value ... ..	£39,052
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£157

### VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	29	15	44
Illegitimate ...	4	—	4
			<hr/> 48 <hr/>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population—15.43—(16.81 corrected)

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total Live Births ... 8.3%

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	2	—	2
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
			<hr/> 2 <hr/>

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 (live and still births) ... 40

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS ... .. 50

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ... ..	—	1	1
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
			<hr/> 1 <hr/>

### INFANT MORTALITY RATES—

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births ...	20.83
Legitimate „ „ „ „ Legitimate Live Births	22.72
Illegitimate „ „ „ „ Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total Live Births)	Nil
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births)	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	40



Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—

Number of Deaths ... ..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births ... ..	Nil

### LOCAL DEATHS OVER 65 YEARS

65—69 ...	5	80—84 ...	9
70—74 ...	2	85—89 ...	9
75—79 ...	14	90—94 ...	2

Total 41

A total of 52 deaths occurred during the year within the Borough, this includes 13 deaths which occurred at the Beech House Welfare Home, 9 of whom had been in residence for a period of six months or more. These deaths are, therefore, included as Borough deaths. The 4 remaining deaths which occurred at Beach House, occurred within six months of them being admitted, and are, therefore, transferred to the areas from which they came. The net total deaths of the Borough populace is, therefore, 48.

### CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1959

	Males	Females
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach ... ..	2	0
"                    "            Lung, Bronchus ...	1	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	1	2
Coronary Disease—Angina ... ..	5	2
Other Heart Disease ... ..	8	8
Influenza ... ..	0	4
Pneumonia ... ..	1	2
Bronchitis ... ..	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	1	0
Congenital Malformations ... ..	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ... ..	6	0
All other Accidents ... ..	1	0
	<hr/> 29	<hr/> 23

Death Rate per 1,000 population—16.72—(11.70 corrected)

## DEATH FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	0

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1959

(in age groups excluding Tuberculosis)

Age years	Measles		Pneumonia		Encephalitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0
2	8	4	0	0	0	0
3	6	6	0	0	0	0
4	4	4	0	0	0	0
5—9	26	22	0	0	0	0
10—14	0	0	0	0	1	0
15—24	1	0	0	0	0	0
25 and over	1	1	1	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	47	38	1	0	1	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA HOSPITALS

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## 1. Tuberculosis

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

## 2. Maternity Cases

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

## 3. Isolation of Infectious Diseases

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford, and is well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious Cases.

## 4. Small Pox

The Small Pox Hospital, to which cases of Small Pox will be sent, is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

## 5. General

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

## 6. Clinics and Treatment Centres

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. Refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

V.D.CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions.

FEMALES— Monday 4 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.

MALES—Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

## 7. Professional Nursing in the Homes

There is one District Nurse in the area who acts as a Midwife.

## 8. Laboratory Facilities

The main Laboratory is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

## 9. Immunization Against Diptheria—Vaccination—

### Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis

These figures, for the whole County, will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

## 10. Ambulance Services

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough



and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

**11. Acute Poliomyelitis**

No cases occurred during the year.

**12. Food Poisoning**

No cases occurred during the year.

We desire to thank the Town Clerk and Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given us.

F. J. H. MARTIN & E. WILLIAMS.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUPRIC HEALTH INSPECTOR TO BOROUGH OF SOUTH MOLTON

For the Year ended 31st December, 1959.

8 EAST STREET,  
SOUTH MOLTON.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1959.

During the year 2,770 visits and inspections were made including:—

## PUBLIC HEALTH—

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	23
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	34
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	57
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	45
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	151
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	254
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	16
Disinfestations/Disinfections	...	...	...	...	2
General	...	...	...	...	24
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	10

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS ... .. 12

FOOD AND DRUGS—Meat Inspection ... .. 238  
                           General ... .. 33  
                           Waste Foods ... .. 2

FACTORIES—With Power ... .. 11  
                   Without Power ... .. 3

## HOUSING—

Slum Clearance/Rent Acts	...	...	...	...	15
Council Houses Supervision, etc.	...	...	...	...	750
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	15
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1

HIGHWAYS ... .. 373

LANDS AND PARKS ... .. 37

CORPORATE ESTATES, TOWN HALL, ETC. ... .. 98

MARKETS	...	...	...	...	...	103
INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders & Miscellaneous						136
MEETINGS	...	...	...	...	...	76
SWIMMING BATHS	...	...	...	...	...	8
PETROLEUM REGULATIONS	...	...	...	...	...	22
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	...	214
CAR PARKS	...	...	...	...	...	7

## WATER SUPPLY

The Public mains supply has been maintained satisfactorily during the year. Chlorination by drip feed has been in operation and a pleasing result of this is that each chlorinated sample submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination has been placed in Class I. of the Ministry's recommended Standards for Public Mains Supplies.

Three unchlorinated samples submitted, taken from inlet to reservoir, were unsatisfactory.

Regular leak detection has been carried out and no restriction on the use of water has been necessary.

The three Candy Filters at Westland Bridge have received regular attention.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The final stage of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was completed by the end of March. The approximate cost of the scheme was £40,000.

The Mole Bridge Purification Works duplication of the main settlement tanks, percolating filters and humus tank, have been carried out, together with the provision of primary and secondary sludge digestion tanks.

Sewers have been re-laid as necessary and the western part of the town now drains to a pumping station in O.S. 1067.

The whole of the developed area of the town is now sewered and extensions in the Nadder Lane/Exeter Gate and New Road/Poltimore Road area are possible to meet future needs.

Visits were paid to premises in which food is handled and sold and in general the conditions found were satisfactory. No prosecutions were made under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

## FOODS CONDEMNED

The following foods have been voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:—

		lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meat	...	54	0
„ Fish	...	7	0
Total	...	61	0

# CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	94	—	265	408	Nil
Number inspected	94	—	265	408	Nil
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	Nil	7	21	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	20.21 %	Nil	2.64 %	5.14 %	Nil
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	21	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	5 14 %	Nil
<b>Cysticercosis</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

The number of licensed Slaughterhouses remained at two and regular killing and inspection has taken place in each. It will be seen from the preceding table that 100% meat inspection was carried out, involving 238 visits.

It was necessary to condemn 3 qrs. 22 lbs. of carcase meat and 5 cwts. 2 qrs. 12 lbs. of offal.

## **ICE CREAM**

Inspections of premises where ice cream is sold have been made. With one exception all the retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

## **FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959**

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year. Five factories were inspected, one certificate being issued for Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire. This has now passed to the Fire Authority of the D.C.C.

## **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT**

The Council have continued to have the part-time services of the Rural District Rodent Operator, who works under the general supervision of the Department. Regular baiting of the Council's properties, including the refuse tip and sewage disposal works, have been carried out. The Operator has dealt efficiently with infestations found as the result of regular survey and complaints received.

**L. W. EVES**

Chief Public Health Inspector.





